Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) as Inland Container Depot or Container Freight Station. This would, simplify the procedure for import and export in Special Economic Zones.

Impact of campaign on HIV

1879. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study about the impact of its campaign on the spread of HIV;

(b) whether the campaign has resulted in safer behaviour;

(c) the results of intervention programmes among sex workers; and

(d) whether the HIV epidemic would come under control in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A nationwide baseline Behavioural Surveillance Survey was conducted by the National AIDS Control Organisation in the year 2001 and 2002 among general population and high risk group in the age group 15-49 years. The study revealed that 71.2% of the respondents stated that HIV/AIDS can be prevented by sexual abstinence and 57% stated that HIV/AIDS can be prevented by having one faithful uninfected sexual partner. The study also revealed that 32.4% of respondents reported consistent condom use, with their non-regular sex partners in the last 12 months.

The study also revealed that 93.5% of sex workers had heard of HIV/AIDS and 82.7% were aware about protection from HIV/AIDS through consistent condom use. 76% of the sex workers reported condom use during the last sexual encounter with their paying clients.

(d) The National AIDS Control Organisation has been conducting nationwide sentinel surveillance every year since 1998 to track the trends of HIV spread in the country. The data obtained from the sentinel surveillance is also used for estimation of the total number of HIV infections. The estimated number of HIV infections was 3.5 million in the year 1998, 3.71 million in 1999, 3.86 million in 2000 and 3.97 million in 2001. These estimates indicate that there is no upsurge in the spread of HIV infection in the country.